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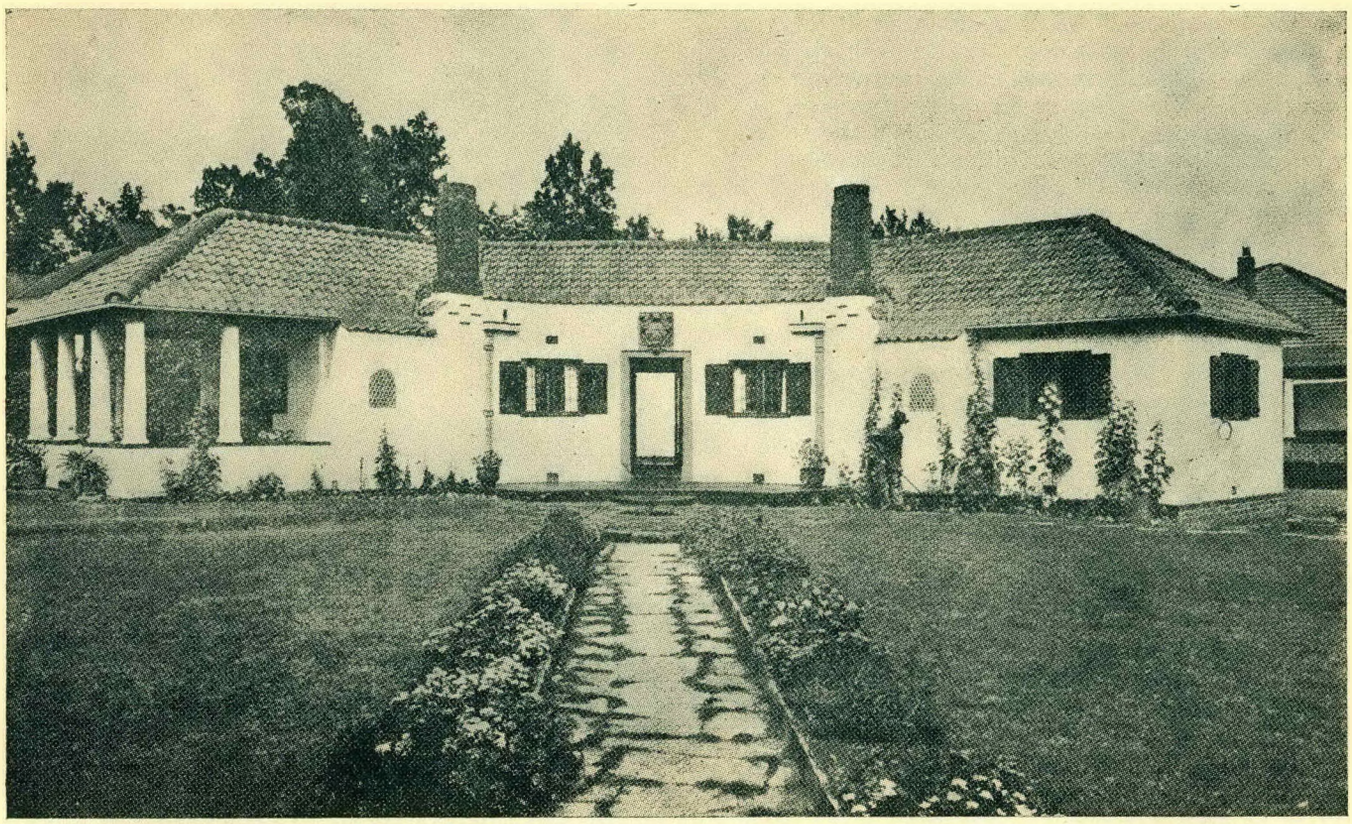
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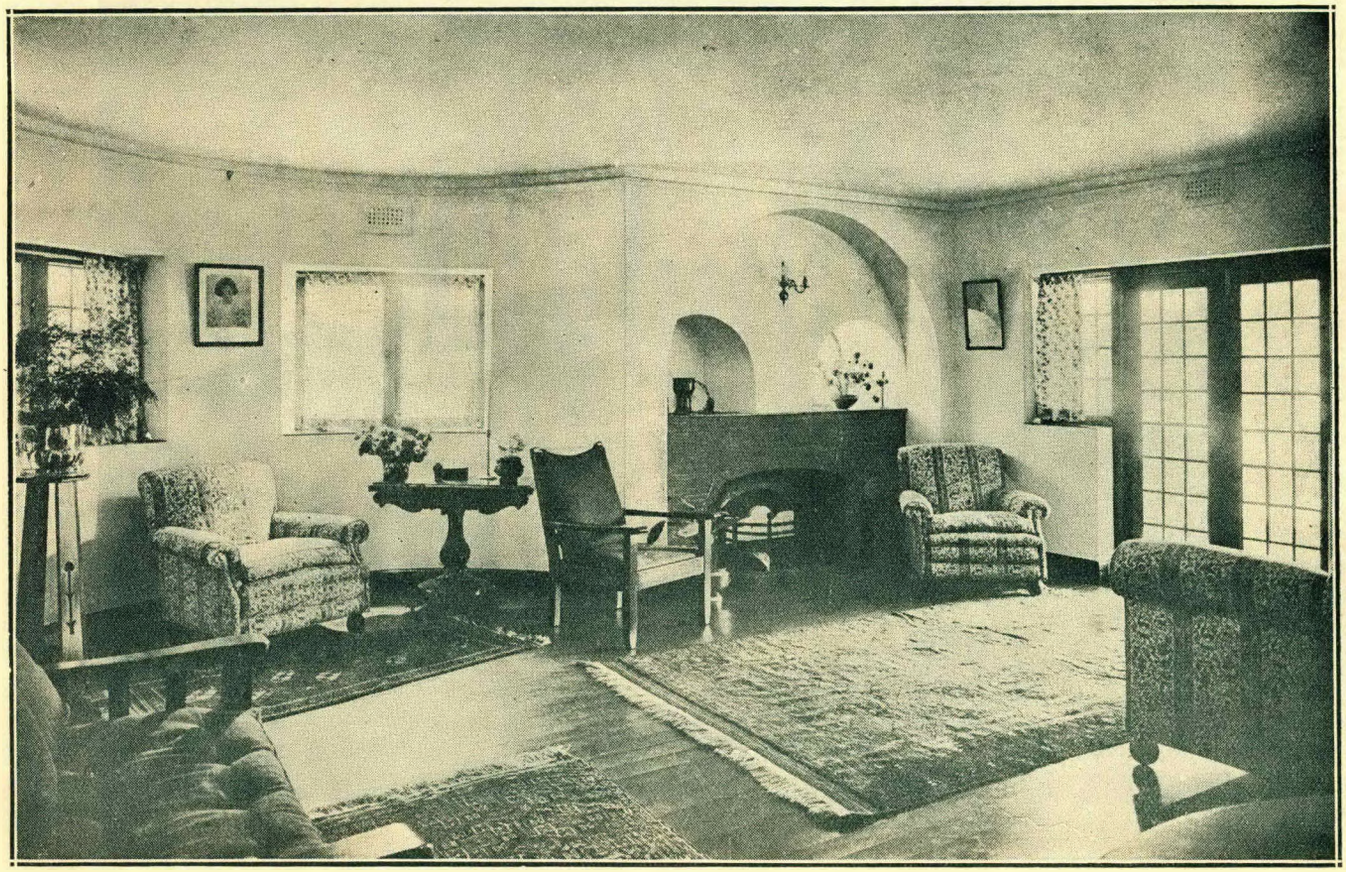
Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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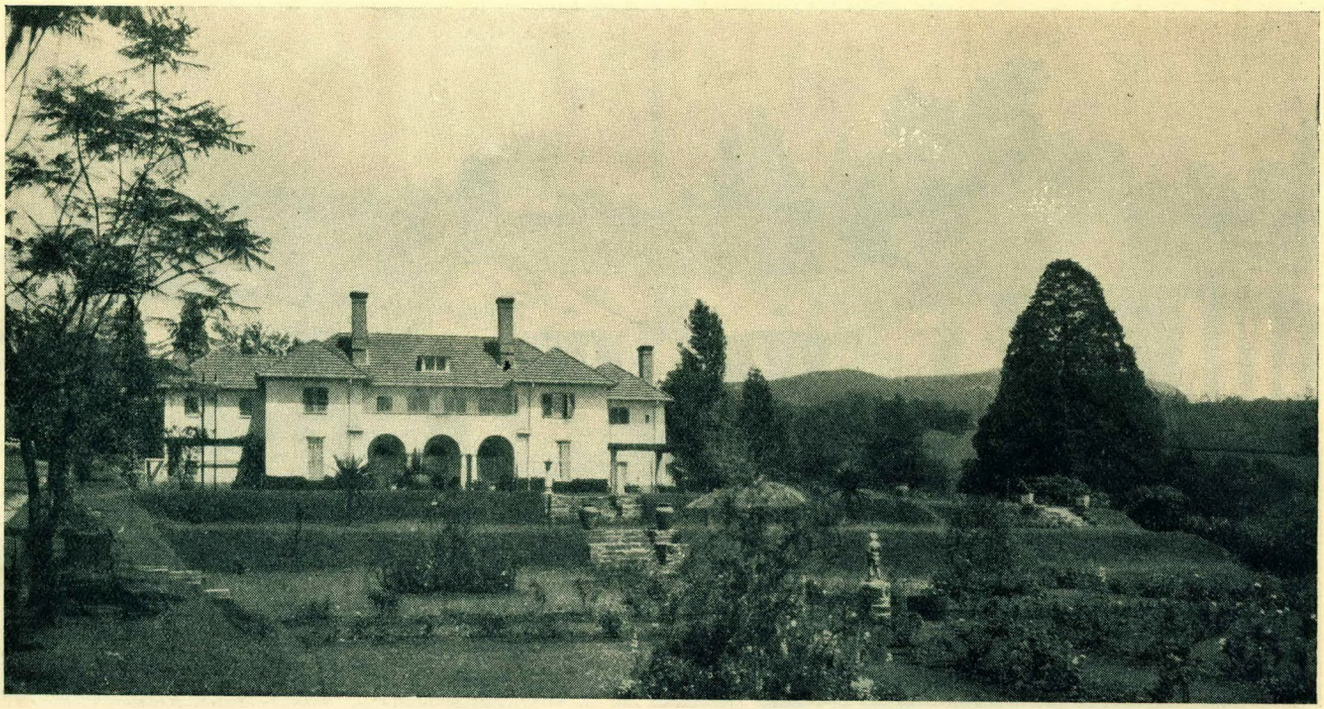
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Residence, Sunnyside, Pretoria.

Gordon Leith, Architect.





Residence, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

A. J. Marshall, Architect.

Photos by Alan Yates.



The Entrance Vestibule, "Arcadia," Johannesburg — *Sir H. Baker, Architect.*

What is more forbidding when calling at a friend's house than to be ushered into a passage, the walls covered with a varnished paper, the floor with linoleum and for furniture a so-called hall-stand and one chair or, when an upper floor exists, to obtain an uninterrupted vista of a straight flight of stairs terminating in a landing ?

In the latter case an archway or timber framed opening revealing only the first few stairs is eminently more attractive.

In the small entrance vestibule it is always possible to arrange the entrance doorway so that service passages and space for coats and hats are efficiently screened.

In many small bungalow houses with a Southern entrance the vestibule can be arranged to serve the dual purpose of entrance hall and service between the bedroom and kitchen wings, as shown in a photograph. The vestibule can thus be well lit and by recessing the windows a porch is formed to the entrance door and seats are provided under the windows for rugs, tennis racquets, etc.

A small, well-designed table, one or two good pictures and an attractive floor rug are all that is required for the furnishing.

The hall or living room door should be easily accessible and visible from the entrance door.

THE HALL.

From the vestibule one enters the hall in the larger homes or living room—house place or lounge in the smaller.

The hall serves as an ante-room between the drawing room and dining room and as such should reflect the characteristic treatment of both these rooms.

Let us consider for a moment what it used to be. In early houses the hall or "houseplace"—as it was called, was the most important room. It was here that the owner, guests and servants sat down to meals, the principal table being raised on a dais at one end. The fireplace was formerly placed centrally, the smoke of the great wood fire escaping through an opening in the open timber roof. Later the fireplace was placed on one side. The walls were hung with tapestries, replaced later by stamped leather or oak panelling. The furniture consisted of heavy trestle tables with forms or benches on either side.

This arrangement is still to be seen in many of the fine college halls at Oxford and Cambridge, and this traditional type is still reflected in our homes today.

It is here that panelling, wood beams, a cheery open fireplace, a few comfortable and well-designed pieces of furniture and one or two good etchings can be most effectively used with a wax-polished wood floor covered with some good rugs.

In the smaller house a similar treatment is very suitable in the living-room or house place which is a combination of hall and drawing-room.

THE DRAWING-ROOM.

The drawing-room, or "with-drawing" room, as it was orginally termed, is, in the modern home, essentially the ladies' room, and as such calls for a lightness in treatment and decoration. The demand for privacy in the earliest homes necessitated the provision of a retiring room, or "solar," as it was called adjoining the dais in the great hall. Such a room may be handsome or it may be merely pretty, according to its place in the scale of drawing-rooms ; but in no case can it afford to be "showy."



The Entrance Vestibule, Residence, Westcliff, Johannesburg. — *H. W. Spicer, Architect.*



The Hall.
Residence, Parktown, Johannesburg.

H. Baker, Masey and Sloper, Architects.

There was a tendency a few years ago to overload drawing-rooms with ornamental knick-knacks, fragile and unsuitable occasional tables, gaily upholstered chairs of the flimsiest construction, and a confused crowd of odds and ends fatal alike to harmony and proportion. Grace was sacrificed to display; beauty was ignored in favour of mere elegance. There are few things more terrible than a "showy" drawing-room. It is well meant, no doubt, but it overshoots the mark and is a prolific cause of inartistic mischief. Comfort should never be forgotten. In selecting chairs, remember that there are chairs and chairs, and that a drawing-room chair should be one in which you can lounge without fancying that your back is breaking or being tortured with projections that prod you whichever way you sit.

The position of the fire place is an important consideration. Being as a rule the chief architectural feature in a room, it is often placed so that it can be immediately seen on entering. A more important factor to be considered is its position with regard to draughts and its efficiency for warming the whole room.

Thus in a long room it is much more efficient if placed at the side than at the end of the room. It should never be placed in the direct line of a draught between door and window. Its design in this room is also important. An open brick or rough stone fireplace with heavy timber surround proves an almost unsurmountable difficulty in furnishing. It is well-nigh impossible to obtain the lightness in treatment of decoration and furniture required when such a jarring element exists.

A fireplace with tiled or marble surround and white painted woodwork is eminently more satisfactory. A governing factor with regard to the size of the room is whether it will be used for music, and if so the type of piano likely to be used. Whereas an upright piano requires a space of about 5ft. 6in. by 2ft. 3in., a grand piano needs an area of 5ft. 6in. by 6ft. to 7ft. 6in. The latter is best placed clear of the walls, the former may stand against the wall provided it is not an external wall subject to varying changes of temperature. In either case left lighting is desirable.

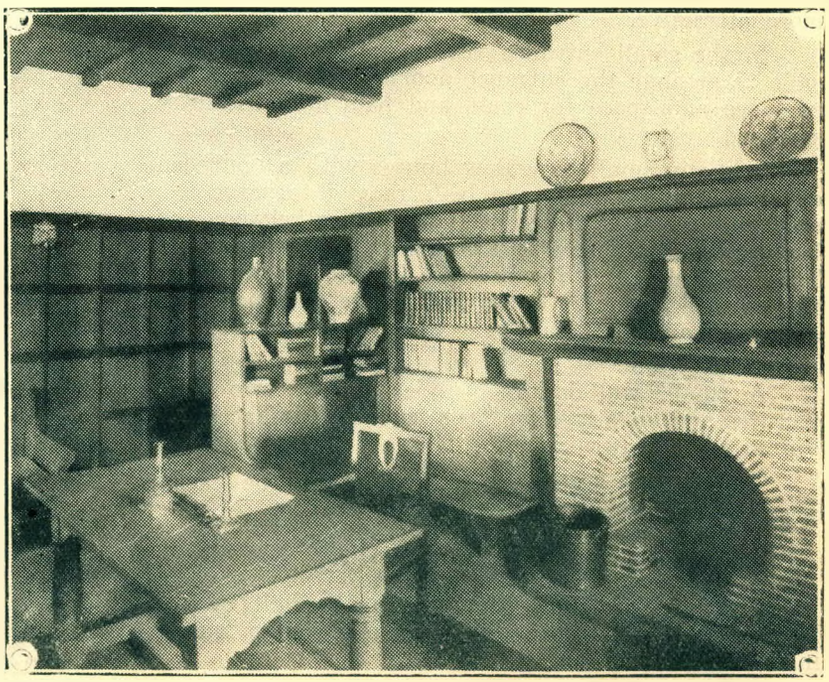
Colour is important in this room, hence the greatest care must be exercised in the selection of carpet or rugs, curtains and coverings. For the walls painted panelling is most effective or a warm neutral tint if distemper is used, for example straw or light grey. A few pictures in colour in the simplest gilt frames assist in providing a cheerful note as do a few pieces of well-designed and coloured pottery in a wall cabinet. The essential furniture is usually a settee, two arm chairs and one or two occasional tables and chairs.

THE DINING ROOM.

In the dining room the centre of operations—in more senses than one—is the table. It is the governing factor in determining the size and shape of the room and the character of the decoration.

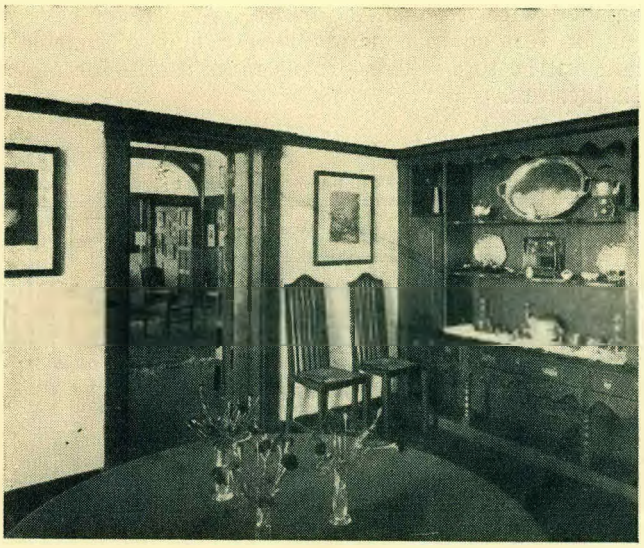
Good light and ventilation are essential, especially the latter, as the atmosphere soon gets laden with the heat and smell of cooked foods. A stuffy dining room detracts considerably from a well cooked dinner.

Further, the ventilation should be so arranged that there is no chance of the slightest draught. The lighting, whether natural or artificial, should be so placed that no diner casts a shadow on his plate. This can be easily arranged in the first instance by placing the windows so that lighting is obtained



The Study,
The Woolsack,
Rondebosch, Cape.

Sir H. Baker, Architect.



The Dining Room. Residence, Parktown, Johannesburg. *H. Baker, Masey and Sloper, Architects.*

diagonally across the table. In the case of artificial lighting a centrally placed and well designed electric fitting provides the most effective and useful lighting.

If artistic effect is the main consideration the perfect dining table should be lighted with shaded candles. The light in either case is focused on the central object with all its dainty arrangement of decorative glass and silver and bowls of flowers.

The placing of the fireplace is of the utmost importance and here certain difficulties occur, for that portion of the table nearest the fire is uncomfortably hot while the remainder receives little heat at all. The fire should preferably be placed at one end of the room rather than the side unless it can be well recessed or so arranged that the heat becomes well distributed. By exercising a little care and thought in the placing of doors, windows and fireplace draughts in cold weather can be almost entirely eliminated.

After the table and chairs the most essential piece of furniture is the sideboard. Its position should be as near the service entrance as possible, and in these days of built-in furniture a good deal of extra space is obtained by recessing it. In the small house a recessed dresser sideboard that can be utilised by both dining room, pantry or scullery is highly desirable. This can be arranged as illustrated in a diagram so that both drawers and cupboards can be made to open from either side.

The highly ornate sideboard with mirror has, we hope, gone for ever and the low buffet sideboards of the late 17th and 18th centuries have come to stay. The built-in dresser sideboard forms a very attractive element in a dining room. With regard to the decorative treatment of the room a good thick carpet is indispensible. It deadens the noise of servants moving about and minimises the risk of accidents caused by loose rugs. Being the groundwork of the decorative scheme an Oriental carpet is perhaps the best. It harmonises with almost any decorative scheme, and its rich colours are never obtrusive.

For the walls probably wood panelling is the most effective treatment. A quiet tone of distemper with a few well selected black and white prints is also effective, but no scheme which detracts from the decorative treatment of the table itself should be tolerated.

THE STUDY.

This room is quite an important element in the larger homes, and in contrast to the drawing room, is invariably given up to the man of the house. It often serves the dual purpose of smoking room and study, hence in the decoration its keynote should be a rich shadowy comfort. The room should at once convey a feeling of retirement from the throb and tumult of the hurry-scurry world. Wood is quite the best material for the walls ; since any kind of woven fabric retains the smoke. Oriental rugs, comfortable arm chairs, a writing table with shaded lamp, bookcases recessed into the wall, and a soft subdued scheme of decoration are essential. In the plan illustrated the study could if required be utilised as a morning room with its Eastern verandah or a day nursery.

THE PANTRY.

The pantry is one of the most important rooms in a house, for here food is prepared and stored and cleanliness, light and ventilation are all important. In South Africa the standard adopted in the planning of small houses is usually that set by the speculative builder who is responsible for fully ninety per cent. of the houses erected in our towns.

Hence we find that the pantry is generally of the smallest dimensions, dreary and drab, with a brown painted dado, shelving on either side and a working shelf at one end. Why this should be tolerated it is difficult to say when, for a little extra expenditure, something much better can be achieved and a great deal of labour and time saved to those using it. In America a great deal more care and thought is given to the problem, but the Architect in this country has invariably to make sacrifices in this important part of the house in order to successfully compete with his rival, the speculative builder.

It is quite an error to suppose that the Architect is lacking in a knowledge of the subject. As much care and thought is given by him to the equipment of a pantry as to an elaborate scientific laboratory.

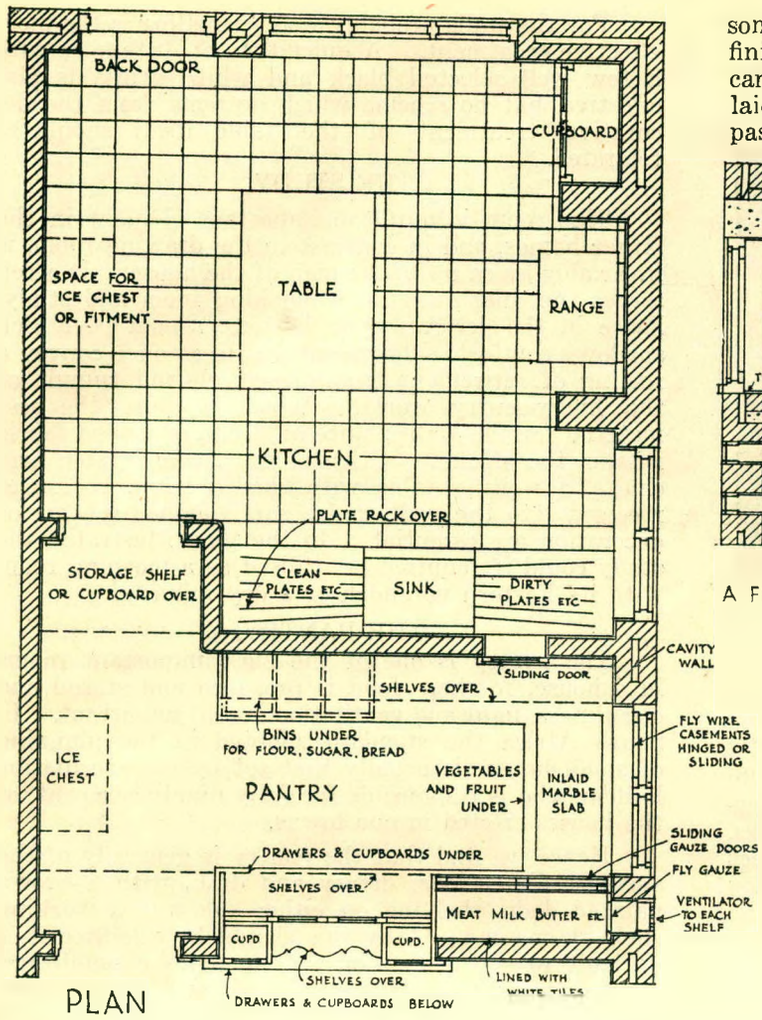
In the small house the pantry usually serves the dual purpose of pantry and larder and its position is frequently between the dining room and kitchen. Easy access to both these rooms is, therefore, important.

The accompanying diagram shows a typical arrangement of the plan in many of our small houses and I have chosen this to illustrate what might be done with it.

Lighting and ventilation are the first essentials. No dark corners should be tolerated and the fittings should be so arranged that thorough cleaning is an easy matter.

Ample floor space is desirable but, for convenience of working, shelving and fitments should be arranged within easy reach.

In dealing with the dining room I referred to the built-in dresser sideboard which is frequently designed to serve both dining room and pantry.

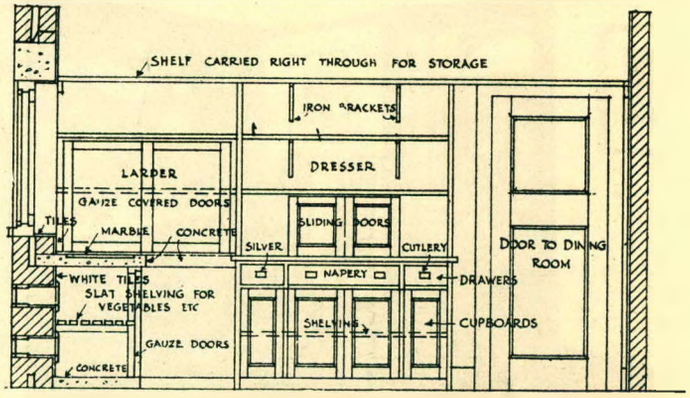


In the small house where a good deal of work is done by the woman of the house a fitting of this kind is extremely useful and saves time and labour. It can be arranged with drawers and cupboards accessible from both sides. Its cost is small, not any more than an ordinary sideboard, it saves floor space in the dining room and it can be designed as a very attractive piece of furniture.

Aonther important matter is the storage of milk, butter, meat, etc. The ice chest generally serves for this purpose and provision for it should always be made in the plan, but in the small cottage and, more particularly in country districts, it is not always possible to instal it.

As a substitute, a cool cupboard can be fitted up, as shown, either under the working shelf or on one side fitted with fly wire gauze door and ventilation to each shelf. The ventilation openings should be carefully constructed and finished with smooth plaster and covered with fly wire gauze or with the more elaborate adjustable covered ventilators which can be opened or closed.

By using perforated shelving or leaving a space in front or behind the shelf a good circulation of air is ensured. The wall should be lined with white tiles. The working shelf under the window is best made of some impervious material, slate, marble or concrete, finished with a polished surface. An economical shelf can be formed in concrete with a slab of marble inlaid on the top. This proves most useful for making pastry, etc.



A FITTED PANTRY IN A TYPICAL SMALL S AFRICAN COTTAGE

A skirting of white tiles round the shelf is also inexpensive and makes absolute cleanliness possible.

Below the shelf the space can be utilised for a cool cupboard as described or may be used for fruit, vegetables, etc. With a slightly raised concrete floor, which prevents dust and dirt accumulating, and a lining of white tiles a very useful and inexpensive cool chamber is provided. The external wall should have a cavity for insulation purposes.

When used for vegetables open batten shelving is desirable, as this permits the circulation of air and keeps the vegetables fresh. Other essential fitments are bins for flour, sugar, bread, etc. These vary in type from the battered biscuit tins to the metal-lined wood bins, which are probably the most satisfactory. Strongly made galvanised iron bins are very useful for keeping out pests.

The bins, of whichever type, can be fitted in cupboards to draw out as required or fixed on a pivot at the bottom. They can then be tipped forward when in use and lifted out to be cleaned.

The shelving itself is best when made removable, clipped to iron brackets screwed to plugs in the wall.

Thus no crevices are formed for the breeding of cockroaches.

The top shelf should be within easy reach, though frequently, however, a shelf is carried along both sides above the height of the door for storage. Another essential is the provision of a hatchway between the pantry and kitchen, so that dirty plates, etc., can be passed through to the sink table. This again provides a considerable saving of time and labour.

With regard to the furnishings of the pantry, the walls are best lined with white tiles, but smooth plaster or cement covered with a good washable distemper or enamel is serviceable, a light colour, preferably white, being desirable. For the flooring many



The Kitchen.
Residence, Johannesburg.

H. W. Spicer,
Architect.

materials are available, but for comfort in working probably the best is wood laid on battens fixed to concrete. Granolithic or any non-resilient materials are very tiring, though perhaps more suitable in the warmer parts of South Africa. Finally good lighting and efficient cross ventilation are essential.

THE KITCHEN.

This is another element in the plan which is given far too little consideration in this country, probably due to the fact that it is the headquarters of the "boy" and the prevailing idea that the native servant is anything but clean. Give him a well-equipped, well-lighted kitchen and in nine cases out of ten it will be kept spick and span.

So much is done here which affects the health of the occupants of the house that it is most essential in a warm climate such as ours that every effort should be made to avoid the accumulation of grease and dirt. And it is quite easily avoided if again the public would demand something more than the speculative builder's standard.

The first consideration is the cooking range and its setting.

It is best placed in a recess lined if possible with white tiles, and an ample ventilation opening provided above to take away any escaping smoke or steam. This is a matter rarely considered, and can be provided at little or no cost.

The hot-water cylinder is another heat-radiating factor that must be considered, and it is quite a simple matter to enclose it or place it above the range as shown in the accompanying photograph.

The range should be well lit preferably from the left so that no shadow is cast whenever a saucepan lid is lifted or the oven door opened. A fitted cupboard on one side provides all the accessories required for culinary purposes. It is customary in the small house in this country to rely on the range to provide hot water for bath, basin and sink, hence it is essential that a good circulating system is adopted and the pipes in the roof are well covered with some insulating material. The arrangement of these pipes and their connections should be given much more care and consideration than is usually the case.

In addition to ventilation above the range good cross ventilation by at least two windows should be provided. Thus a kitchen in our warmest weather can be made quite tolerable. The sink is the next consideration and is rarely given any thought at all. We are accustomed to the enamelled iron variety, a type which is about the worst for collecting grease and filth.

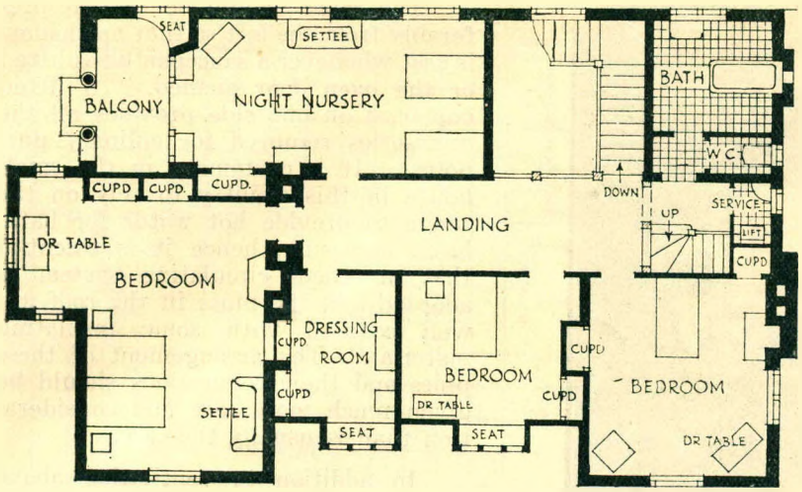
The position of the sink is important. It should be within easy reach of the range and accessible to the pantry.

Whenever possible a good-sized window should be provided either above the sink or at one end, so that every part is clearly seen.

The height is important as sinks are usually fixed too low. The most convenient height is 30in. to 33in. from the floor to the bottom of the sink varying with its depth. Two boards are essential, one for stacking up and the other for draining. A plate rack above the draining board is useful. The wall surrounding the sink or against which it is placed should be lined with white glazed tiles even though it is not possible to continue them round the kitchen.

Sinks are obtainable in various materials—fireclay, stoneware, enamelled iron, oiled teak or hardwood lined with lead, pewter, copper or galvanised iron. Each of these has its particular uses, but for general purposes the best is undoubtedly the porcelain. It can be supported on galvanised or porcelain enamelled cast iron cantilever brackets built into the wall, which arrangement leaves the floor clear below or, when the wall cannot safely carry it, supported on galvanised or porcelain enamelled legs which give the minimum of contact with the floor. The boards should be made removable. There are thus no crevices for grease or filth to accumulate. The water pipes are best brought down the wall rather than coming up from below the sink for obvious reasons. In larger houses a separate scullery adjoining the kitchen is usully provided, but in the small house the kitchen-scullery is more general.

The other forms of sink mentioned of wood or wood lined with lead are used in the butler's pantry, china pantry, etc., but these do not come within the



Residence, Parktown, Johannesburg.

H. Baker, Willmott and Sloper, Architects.

scope of these articles. Other fitments in a kitchen are the dresser, somewhat similar to that described, a cupboard for brooms and buckets, pot racks, drying racks for dish cloths, etc., all of which hardly need explanation.

The finishings of a kitchen should be as clean and sanitary as possible.

For the floor, tiles or granolithic are commonly used. These, however, are very tiring when used by the lady of the house, and, further, they get very slippery and easily cause breakages. A good wood floor is perhaps the best, either plain or covered with the best quality inlaid linoleum which is easily cleaned and removed. In warmer parts of the country and where ants, etc., are common the impervious floor is probably the best.

For the wall, white tiles are best but costly. A good plaster, finished with enamel or an enamelled dado, with a washable distemper above, is efficient.

THE BEDROOM.

Perhaps no room in a house has been more neglected than the bedroom. In this room we spend a third of our lives, which is considerably more than we spend in any other room and, by skilful planning, much can be done to promote, not only peaceful sleep and good health, but good temper.

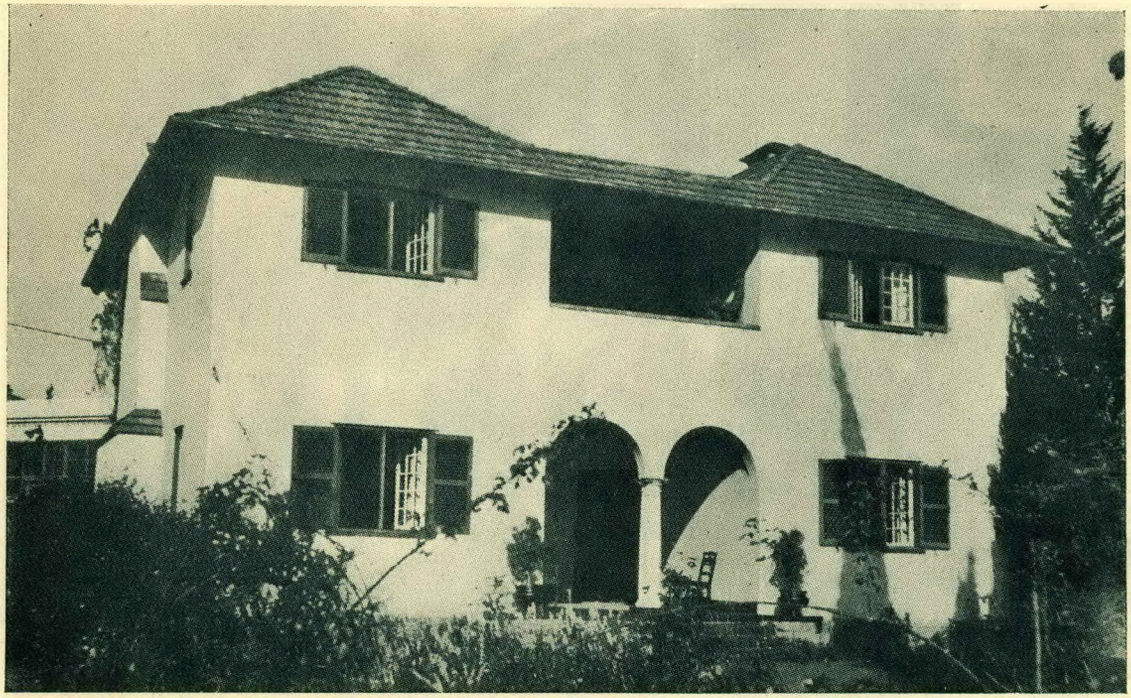
The first consideration is that the bedroom should be hygienic, the second that it should be cheerful. To achieve the first hangings of all sorts should be avoided for hygienic reasons, but one can hardly be expected to go to this extreme. The bedroom, however, can be so designed and treated that stuffiness and germculture is obviated to a large extent.

Ventilation is a paramount matter. Sound and refreshing sleep depends very much upon the atmosphere of the room, and no one who neglects the subject of ventilation can hope to escape for long the physical penalty of his inattention.

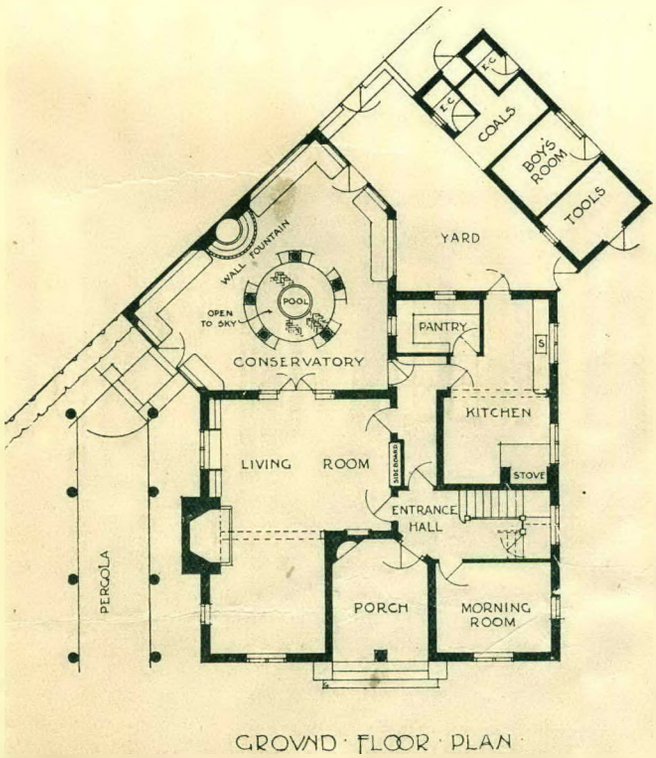


The Principal Bedroom. Residence, Parktown, Johannesburg.

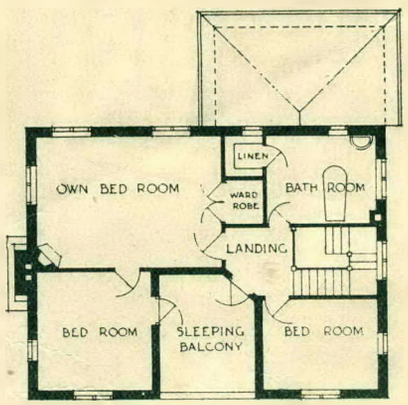
H. Baker, Willmott and Sloper, Architects.



North Front.



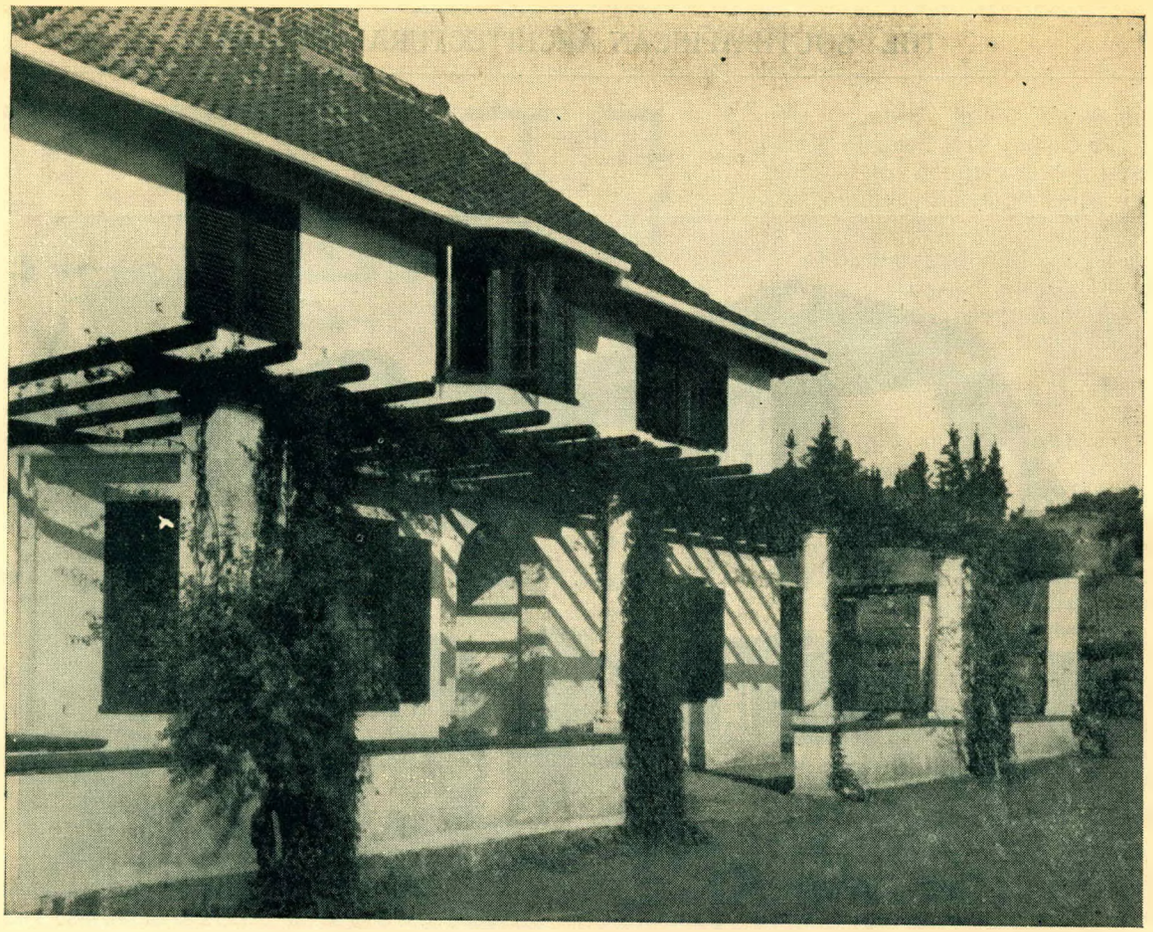
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

The Plan.
Residence, Parkwood, Johannesburg.

H. Porter, Architect.



Entrance Front.



The Lounge.
Residence, Muckleneuk,
Pretoria.

Photos: Alan Yates.

F. L. H. Fleming,
Architect.



Residence, Johannesburg. *H. W. Spicer, Architect.*



Residence, Johannesburg. *H. W. Spicer, Architect.*

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